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FM THE SITUATION ROOM

PARIS

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FM COL KENNEDY

TO GEN HAIG FOR HENRY A. KISSINGER

DELIVER TO GEN HAIG FOR HENRY A. KISSINGER AT AMBASSADOR

WATSON'S RESIDENCE

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

KISSINGER, HAIG IN PARIS; TALKS BEGIN

BY ALBERT B. CRENSHAW (WASHINGTON POST STAFF WRITER)
PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER HENRY A. KISSINGER, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS
CHIEF DEPUTY, MAJ. GEN. ALEXANDER M. HAIG, HELD ANOTHER ROUND
OF SECRET TALKS IN PARIS YESTERDAY WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE
NEGOTIATORS AND PLANNED A SECOND SESSION TODAY.

THE PRESENCE OF HAIG, JUST BACK FROM SAIGON WHERE HE BRIEFED
SOUTH VIETNAMESE PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN THIEU ON THE PROGRESS
OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, FUELED SPECULATION THAT THE DISCUSSIONS
CENTERED ON THE FUTURE OF THE SAIGON REGIME.

WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY RONALD L. ZIEGLER, WHO ANNOUNCED
YESTERDAY'S TRIP BY KISSINGER, SAID THE TALKS WITH NORTH
VIETNAMESE POLITBURO MEMBER LE DU THO AND XUAN THUY, NORTH
VIETNAM'S CHIEF NEGOTIATOR, MIGHT CONTINUE "POSSIBLY A
THIRD DAY" ON TUESDAY.

ZIEGLER SAID KISSINGER HAD CABLED REPORTS ON THE SESSION TO
PRESIDENT NIXON, BUT THE PRESS SECRETARY REFUSED TO PROVIDE
ANY INDICATIONS ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE TALKS. THE EXTENSION
OF THE TALKS WAS ANNOUNCED AFTER MR. NIXON RETURNED TO WASHINGTON

LAST NIG

IN 1969, FOLLOWS A WEEK OF RUMORS, ALL UNSUBSTANTIATED, OF BREAKTHROUGHS IN THE PEACE TALKS.

DEFENSE SECRETARY MELVIN R. LAIRD SAID YESTERDAY THAT WHILE THERE IS NOTHING TO INDICATE A CEASE-FIRE BEFORE THE NOV. 7 ELECTION, PEACE TALKS ARE AT "A VERY SERIOUS, SIGNIFICANT AND SENSITIVE STAGE."

INTERVIEWED ON THE TELEVISION PROGRAM "FACE THE NATION" (CBS, WTOP), LAIRD ALSO SAID THE UNITED STATES "MUST HAVE RETURN OF OUR PRISONERS OF WAR AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR OUR MISSING IN ACTION" AS PART OF ANY SETTLEMENT.

LAIRD ADDED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S VIETNAMIZATION PROGRAM HAS BEEN "VERY SUCCESSFUL, AND SHOULD THE NEGOTIATIONS NOT BE SUCCESSFUL WE WILL MOVE FORWARD WITH IT."

THE INCLUSION OF HAIG FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE TALKS FOLLOWS A REPORT IN THE TIMES OF LONDON ON FRIDAY THAT THE UNITED STATES AND NORTH VIETNAM HAD AGREED ON A PLAN BY WHICH PRESIDENT THIEU WOULD RESIGN TO MAKE WAY FOR A COALITION GOVERNMENT. THE COMMUNISTS HAVE DEMANDED THAT THIEU BE REPLACED BY A TRIPARTE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT AS A PRELUDE TO A PERMANENT SETTLEMENT OF THE WAR.

THE WHITE HOUSE DISMISSED THE TIMES' REPORT AS SHEER SPECULATION. AT THE SAME TIME, SOME OBSERVERS HAVE INTERPRETED THIEU'S RECENT REITERATION OF HIS REJECTION OF THE COMMUNIST PROPOSALS AS AN ATTEMPT TO CONVEY TO WASHINGTON SAIGON'S UNHAPPINESS WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN PARIS.

AT HIS NEWS CONFERENCE THURSDAY, PRESIDENT NIXON SAID, "THE SETTLEMENT WILL COME JUST AS SOON AS WE CAN POSSIBLY GET A SETTLEMENT WHICH IS RIGHT, RIGHT FOR THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND FOR US, ONE THAT WILL HAVE IN MIND OUR GOAL OF PREVENTING THE IMPOSITION BY FORCE OF A COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH VIETNAM."